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NSC BRIEFING

15 January 1953

GUATEMALA

- I. Probable deal between Ydigoras and PR would increase Ydigoras chances of victory in 19 January election and the Communists' opportunities for gaining influence.
 - A. It would convert election from a three-way race, into a contest between Ydigoras and Cruz.
 - B. Leftist leaders urging followers to vote for Ydigoras rather than PR candidate Mendez.
 - C. In return, PR may get four cabinet posts, including ministry of interior.
 - D. Alliance apparently dictated by Ydigoras' realization that he probably cannot win alone and on PR belief that if it did win, army probably would not let it govern.
 1. Both realize that if no candidate gets majority election goes to congress, which is pro-Cruz.
- II. Serious violence appears almost inevitable regardless of who wins. Opposing forces are armed and prepared for a fight.
 - A. If Cruz wins, Ydigoras and PR are sure to charge fraud and resort to mob violence.
 - B. If Ydigoras wins with PR support, the army may refuse to permit his taking power.
 - C. Interim President Flores Avendano is believed to have discarded former policy of neutrality in favor of quiet support for Cruz.
 - D. President Flores speaks confidently of the army's ability to control situation, but this is doubtful.

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